

Ulster Receives Individual and Public Assistance Designations, Orange Receives Individual Assistance Designation

Washington, DC -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that President Obama has approved additional federal assistance to help Orange County and Ulster County recover in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Lee. Hinchey requested the assistance in September during a phone call with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate and in a subsequent letter to President Obama. Residents in both counties are now eligible for Individual Assistance (IA), allowing families and individuals affected by the storm the ability to apply for disaster recovery funds through FEMA. Ulster County also received a Public Assistance (PA) designation, allowing the county to receive federal support in rebuilding public infrastructure damaged by the storm. Orange County received the PA designation last week.

"This is good news for the families affected by Tropical Storm Lee," said Hinchey. "I requested these designations in a phone call with FEMA Administrator Fugate and in a letter to President Obama. After Hurricane Irene, many of us didn't think things could get much worse. Then a second punch hit the region with Tropical Storm Lee, destroying much of the recovery work that had already taken place. These new designations are critical to ensuring that the families, small businesses and municipalities affected by the second storm would receive the federal support they need to rebuild."

Following Irene and Lee, Hinchey has worked to ensure that counties in the congressional district he represents have the disaster declarations necessary to receive federal assistance. In his call with FEMA Administrator Fugate, Hinchey singled out the need to reassess Orange and Ulster counties after a second round of flooding.

Hinchey today voted for legislation that will allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to meet its short-term obligations. Hinchey, who has led the effort in the House for a bigger disaster relief package, said he will continue pushing additional legislation to provide disaster relief for farmers and provide all of the funding necessary for FEMA to meet its long-term disaster recovery obligations.

Hinchey has also introduced legislation, and has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to expedite and provide additional assistance to farmers affected by the flooding

and is supportive of efforts to provide crop insurance retroactively to New York farmers in need.